



STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

P.O. BOX 83720
BOISE, IDAHO 83720-0027

TOM LUNA
STATE SUPERINTENDENT
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

Idaho State Department of Education

June 7, 2012

www.sde.idaho.gov

Media contact:

Melissa McGrath

(208) 332-6818

mmcgrath@sde.idaho.gov

IDAHO STUDENTS TO STUDY WITH NASA EXPERTS THIS SUMMER

BOISE – Nearly 90 Idaho students will spend part of their summer break studying space exploration with NASA officials and Idaho experts in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). These students are part of the third annual Idaho Science and Aerospace Scholars Program Summer Academy.

In 2009, Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Luna worked with astronaut and Boise State Distinguished Educator-in-Residence Barbara Morgan to create this competitive program that allows Idaho high school juniors to take an engaging online course developed by NASA and Idaho Digital Learning Academy during the school year and then compete for the opportunity to work on developing a mission to Mars with NASA and Idaho scientists and engineers.

“The Idaho Science and Aerospace Scholars Program continues to be an unparalleled opportunity for Idaho’s high school students to work side-by-side with experts in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics from within our state and at NASA,” Superintendent Luna said. “As we work to provide equal access and opportunities to all Idaho students through Students Come First, this program is a great example of how education and industry can partner to create better opportunities for our 21st Century learners.”

“Boise State University is delighted to be collaborating with all of the great organizations and dedicated people who make this exciting program possible,” Morgan said. “This is an excellent extension of our mission to engage the next generation in the fascinating world of science, technology, engineering and mathematics.”

In the first year of the Idaho Science and Aerospace Scholars Program, 73 students enrolled in the online course, and 44 students went on to the Summer Academy. This year, 88 students will be able to participate in the Summer Academy, which will be held twice this summer.

Students have completed a 16-week online course through Idaho Digital Learning Academy and will participate in Capstone Celebrations, daylong academies that give students the opportunity to share what they have learned and be immersed in STEM activities. Each Capstone Celebration will feature hands-on educational activities and demonstrations of knowledge gained and lessons learned during the online course. The Capstone Celebrations are strategically located at the Idaho Air National Guard at Gowen Field in Boise, Center for Advanced Energy Studies in Idaho Falls and University of Idaho in Moscow to serve all students statewide. The three Capstone Celebrations will be held in June. More detailed information is below and online at <https://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/science/ISAS/isas.htm>.

In addition to Capstone Celebrations, a select number of students will attend one of the two weeklong residential Summer Academies that will take place partly at Boise State University, Micron Technology and the Discovery Center of Idaho, and partly at the NASA Ames Research Center in California.

- MORE -



STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

P.O. BOX 83720
BOISE, IDAHO 83720-0027

TOM LUNA
STATE SUPERINTENDENT
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

At the Summer Academy, students are immersed in a simulated NASA mission to Mars, problem-based engineering design challenges, and science explorations. These Idaho students will be guided by STEM experts, teachers and student teachers. Forty-four students will attend the first Summer Academy July 8-14, and an additional 44 students will attend the second Summer Academy July 22- 28.

To keep up with the Summer Academies throughout both weeks, visit the *Education Idaho* blog at <http://educationidaho.blogspot.com> for live updates.

The Idaho Science and Aerospace Scholars Program is a partner with the NASA High School Aerospace Scholars Program and supported by a NASA grant.

To learn more, visit <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/science/ISAS/index.htm>.

#####

Editors' Note: Each Capstone Celebration is scheduled from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Here are the details on each event:

Idaho Falls Capstone Celebration

Date: Monday, June 11

Location: Center for Advanced Energy Studies (INL), Idaho Falls

More information: <https://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/science/ISAS/eastern.htm>

Media Contact: Anne Seifert, Idaho National Laboratory, (208) 526-8027

Moscow Capstone Celebration

Date: Wednesday, June 13

Location: University of Idaho

More information: <https://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/science/ISAS/northern.htm>

Media Contact: Becky Highfill, University of Idaho, (208) 885-4934

Boise Capstone Celebration

Date: Tuesday, June 19

Location: Idaho Air National Guard (Gowen Field), Boise

More information: <https://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/science/ISAS/southwestern.htm>

Media Contact: Capt. Tony Vincelli, Idaho Air National Guard, (208) 422-5398